

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 13 and 19 – 21 are pending in the present Application. Claim 1 has been cancelled, Claims 2, 7, 10, and 13, have been amended, and Claims 22 – 24 have been added, leaving Claims 2 – 13 and 19 – 24 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Claim 2 has been amended to reorder the elements of the claim so that proper antecedent basis is provided for all claim elements. Support for this amendment can at least be found in Claims 1 and 2 as originally filed. This amendment does not change the scope of Claim 2, it merely provides proper antecedent basis for the phrase “the metal oxide impregnated activated carbon”.

Claims 7, 10, and 13, have been amended merely to change their dependency to an allowed claim since Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claims 22 – 24 have been added merely because Claim 1 has been cancelled and to further claim the present invention. Claims 7, 9, and 11 depend from Claim 5, and these claims depend from Claim 12. Support for these new claims can at least be found in Claims 7, 9, and 11 as originally filed.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments or new claims. Amendments to, cancellation of, and additions to, the claims, are made in order to streamline prosecution in this case by limiting examination and argument to certain embodiments that presently are considered to be of immediate commercial significance. Amendment or cancellation of the claims is not in any manner intended to, and should not be construed to, indicate an intention, expressed or implied, to surrender any equivalent to the claims as pending after such amendments or cancellations

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 7 – 11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over EP Patent No. 1112997 A2 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,039,619 to Steiner. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons set forth in the prior response. However, to streamline prosecution and facilitate patenting of the allowed claims,

Claim 1 has been cancelled and Claims 7 – 11 and 13 have been amended to ultimately depend from an allowed claim. Hence, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-6, 12, and 19-21 are allowed. Claims 7 – 11 and 13 have been amended to depend from allowed claims. New Claims 22 – 24 also depend from an allowed claim. Hence, all pending claims in the present application are allowed or depend from an allowed claim. Allowance of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0893.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 8, 2007
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